



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

POLAND REQUESTS EXTRADITION OF MURDER SUSPECT

31-year-old man has been in ICE custody awaiting removal

EL PASO—A citizen of Poland wanted in connection with an organized crime murder was arraigned today in federal court here following Poland's formal extradition request to the United States.

Piotr Szczepaniak is wanted by authorities in Poland who have linked to a murder committed Dec. 5, 1999, in Zakopane, Poland.

According to court documents, he is charged with having committed, in the jurisdiction of the Republic of Poland, the crimes of having "hindered criminal prosecution by assisting murder suspects to hide" and "by covering up the traces of crime and with the failure to notify law enforcement authorities about the murder," which are violations of Articles 239 & 1 and 240 & 1 of the Polish Criminal Code. Warrants for his arrest were issued in Poland Sept. 8, 2000.

On April 17, Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol agents arrested Szczepaniak near Ysleta, Texas for attempting to enter the country without inspection. Szczepaniak was detained in the El Paso Processing Center by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement as the matter was being investigation and Szczepaniak was awaiting deportation proceedings.

A joint investigation by special agents of ICE, the FBI and the Joint Terrorism Task Force revealed Szczepaniak was a person of interest to the Polish authorities who was wanted under two arrest warrants. A federal magistrate signed a provisional warrant of arrest to execute an international extradition order to Poland. Deputy U.S. marshals arrested Szczepaniak Thursday and took custody of him.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.